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IN THE CLAIMS

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- (currently amended) A cover plate for household devices, comprising a
 decorative part and a reinforcer with integrated, molded-on functional elements,
 where the reinforcer has the structure of a sheet or box or crate and has a
 closed lower side, and where the reinforcer is welded to the decorative part.
- (currently amended) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the decorative
 part is composed of a support, of a decorative layer applied thereto, and of a
 heat-cured layer situated on the decorative layer and where the reinforcer is
 welded to the support of the decorative part.
- 3. (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 2, where the decorative part also has an intermediate layer between the support and the decorative layer.
- (currently amended) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1 <u>claim 2</u>, where the support is composed of a thermoplastic.
- 5. (canceled)
- 6. (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the reinforcer has the structure of a box or crate.
- 7. (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the reinforcer also has ribs.
- 8. (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the integrated, molded-on functional element comprises a dispenser box.
- (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the integrated, molded-on functional element comprises a condensation box.
- 10. (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the integrated, molded-on

KLEMM et al., Ser. No. 09/640,092 functional element has an apparatus for an integrated water duct.

- (original) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the reinforcer is composed of thermoplastic.
- 12. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a cover plate as claimed in claim 1, which comprises firstly securing integrated, molded-on functional elements to the reinforcer and then bonding the reinforcer to the decorative part by welding.
- 13. (Currently amended) A method of connecting a cover plate as claimed in claim 1

 to a household device, which method comprises firstly securing molding the

 integrated, molded-on functional elements to onto the reinforcer, and then

 bonding the reinforcer to the decorative part, by attaching a snap connector and

 then fastening the functional elements to the household device.
- 14. (canceled)

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- 15. (currently amended) A method of connecting a cover plate as claimed in claim 14 as constituent of 13, wherein the household dryers device is a dryer.
- 16. (currently amended) A method of connecting a cover plate as claimed in claim 14 as constituent of 13, wherein the household device is a washing machine.
- 17. (currently amended) A method of connecting a cover plate as claimed in claim

 14 as constituent of 13, wherein the household device is a dishwasher.
- 18. (new) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the functional elements are screw domes, clips or snap connectors.
- 19. (new) A cover plate as claimed in claim 4, where the reinforcer is composed of the same thermoplastic as the support.

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- 20. (new) A cover plate as claimed in claim 19, where the thermoplastic is polypropylene.
- 21. (new) A cover plate as claimed in claim 1, where the reinforcer and the support collectively form a closed box- or crate-type component.